DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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-STATE OF MONTANA

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To: Governor's Office, Mike Volesky, State Capitol, Room 204, PO Box 200801, Helena MT 59620-0801

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 2 Headquarters, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula MT 59804

Missoula County Board of County Commissioners, 200 W. Broadway, Missoula MT 59801

Senator Carol Williams 3533 Lincoln Hills Pt. Missoula MT 59802-3382

Rep. Robin Hamilton 330 Daly Ave. Missoula MT 59801-4338

Missoula County Rural Initiatives, Attn: Pat O'Herren, 200 W. Broadway, Missoula MT 59801

Lolo National Forest Supervisor's Office Fort Missoula Bldg. 24 Missoula MT 59804

Seeley Lake Ranger District 3583 Hwy 83 Seeley Lake MT 59868

Clearwater Resource Council PO Box 1471 Seeley Lake MT 59868

Blackfoot Challenge PO Box 103 Ovando MT 59854

Montana Environmental Information Center 107 W Lawrence St. Helena MT 59601-5093

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Placid Lake Properties PO Box 3416 Missoula MT 59806-3416

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Placid Mission Coalition 1735 Defoe St. Missoula MT 59802

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Double Arrow Ranch Landowners Association PO Box 307 Seeley Lake MT 59868

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and Plum Creek Timberlands (PCT) are proposing an exchange of road access easements. The easement exchange would to ensure permanent legal access for a variety of land management purposes. All easements would be associated with existing roads.

There are two general locations of the exchange – one in the Placid Lake-Tupper Lake area, the other in Blanchard Creek. Both areas are within Missoula County and are near the junction of Hwy 200 and Hwy 83 (Clearwater Junction). Maps are attached to this notice.

The current proposal is for the DNRC to grant approximately 2.5 miles of road access to PCT, and for PCT to grant approximately 13 miles of road access to the DNRC.

As a result of the exchange, the DNRC would gain permanent legal access to approximately 530 acres of school trust land in the Blanchard Creek drainage, while PCT already has legal access to its lands in this area.

In the Placid-Tupper Lakes area, the DNRC would gain permanent legal access to approximately 2,900 acres of school trust lands, while PCT would gain permanent legal access to 3,800 acres.

The DNRC is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act to assess potential impacts of proposed state actions on state lands to the human and physical environment. Public comments on this project are being sought in order to complete that assessment.

Public comment will be taken for 31 days (through October 12, 2009). This request for public comment is also being posted on the DNRC website at http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/about_us/notices.asp. Notices are also being posted in the Missoulian and the Seeley Lake Pathfinder newspapers. In order to address any concerns citizens may have over this proposal, DNRC is hosting an open-house at the Seeley Lake Community Hall, located in Seeley Lake, on Monday, September 28th, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Comments may be submitted by email at dboruch@mt.gov. You may also mail written comments to SWLO-DNRC, Attn: Dana Boruch 1401 27th Avenue, Missoula MT 59804.

Dana M. Boruch Right-of-Way Specialist Southwestern Land Office

Blanchard Creek area:



